

09/178968

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE



5 A technique for increasing the lifetime of optical components that are used in a laser for laser shock peening. The technique employs a properly sized iris or a gradient reflector within a laser oscillator to produce a single-transverse-mode laser beam. This technique eliminates hot spots that significantly reduce the lifetime of optical components. Utilization of the present invention can increase the lifetime of components by a factor of ten of their conventional lifetime.

09/178968